

PRINCIPLES and PRACTICE of PLASTIC SURGERY. By A. J. Barsky, M.D.,
D.D.S. Pp. 499 with 1,029 figures. Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 76s. 6d.

THIS book is a practical guide which deals with most of the conditions which come within the scope of plastic surgery as practised in the British Isles.

The first six chapters are devoted to basic principles such as the use of free skin grafts, flaps and tube pedicles, transplantation of tissues other than skin and the treatment of wounds, burns, frostbite, scars and keloids. The next nine chapters deal with the practice of plastic surgery as applied to the various regions of the body and the last chapter discusses the use of prostheses and their management.

At the end of each chapter there is an excellent bibliography in which the American author has made due acknowledgement to the contributions of British and Continental surgeons.

The book does not set out to be an encyclopædia of plastic surgery and the author has been wise to confine his descriptions to methods which, from his own practical experience and that of his colleagues, he knows to be successful. As a result he has written a book which provides an excellent introduction to the speciality and which at the same time contains much practical information which would be of value to the general surgeon.

The book is excellently produced and is well illustrated with numerous photographs and line drawings depicting procedures and results.

N. C. H.

PRACTICAL PROCEDURES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE. By R. I. S. Bayliss,
M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P. J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 25s.

THIS book is destined to become a standard work and to be referred to by its author's surname. The practical procedures, including minor operations and special tests, have been carefully chosen and are illuminated by well-written commentaries; the rationale, scope, and limitations of the tests receiving as much attention as the technical details. It is invidious to select any particular portion of the book for special praise but the chapters on endocrine and metabolic disorders, parenteral infusions, clinical radiology, and disorders of the liver may be mentioned as being particularly valuable to the would-be physician. While the book is designed to meet the requirements of senior students, house physicians, and registrars, it will probably find a place on the shelves of most practising physicians. Dr. Bayliss and his small panel of experts must be congratulated both for their enterprise and for their achievement.

R. G. V.

STREPTOMYCIN. Editor Selman A. Waksman, Ph.D., New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station, Rutgers University. Pp. 618 with 89 figures. London :
Baillière, Tinsdall & Cox. 1949. 76s. 6d.

THIS book in four sections comprises selected papers by distinguished American authors.

Section one deals with the microbiology and chemistry of Streptomycin and the history of its discovery.

There follows a specially good section on the pharmacology and antibacterial properties of the drug. Two chapters in this section upon the development of resistance to Streptomycin are outstanding. Mention is made of P.A.S. in the search for an adjuvant to Streptomycin therapy.

The clinical uses of Streptomycin take up the great portion of the book in section three. Tuberculosis is especially well catered for, and attention is drawn to the influence of the pathology of the lesion in determining response to treatment. Stress is laid on the indication for treatment before necrosis has occurred. Development of resistance by the organism often coincides with deterioration of the patient, and subsequent improvement in any case is due to the natural defences of the patient. The uses of Streptomycin in non-tuberculous conditions are not so well nor uniformly covered, and several of the chapters are non-committal.

Among the miscellaneous uses mentioned in section four is that for the isolation of viruses.

The book is adequately illustrated and some of the plates are excellent. It is easy of reading and highly interesting to workers with Streptomycin.

F. F. K.